



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tennessee Tower, 3rd Floor
Thursday, August 23, 2018
1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Amy Jones, Chair
Hailey Brooks
Jenny Harland
Rob Mortensen
Steven Neely
Wendy Shea
Glenda Terry

Members Absent

Kelly Drummond
Genesis Hardin
Destiny Sweeney

Staff Present

Jennifer Drake-Croft
Laritha Fentress
Craig Hargrow
Sumita Keller
Richard Kennedy
Melissa McGee
Jerri Moore
Jill Murphy
Gerald Papica
Steve Petty

I. Welcome and Introductions – Amy Jones, Children's Services Committee Chair

Jones called the Children's Services Committee meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. There was a quorum (simple majority) for the meeting. Seven of ten commission board members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

Jones reviewed the minutes. There was no discussion, comment or correction.

IT WAS MOVED (HARLAND) AND SECONDED (SHEA) TO APPROVE THE JUNE 14, 2018 CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

III. Youth Transitions Advisory Council Update – Steve Petty

There have been two meetings of the Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC) since the June Commission meeting. In June, YTAC met jointly with the Council on Children's Mental Health at Midtown Hills Police Precinct. There were 85 attendees from both councils.

The Council's received a presentation from Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services on the departments Transition Initiatives: Healthy Transitions and OnTrackTN (First Episode Psychosis).

Tennessee Healthy Transitions Initiative assists Tennessee youth and young adults with or at risk of developing a serious mental health condition and/or co-occurring disorder focusing on prioritized populations of youth and young adults ages 16-25: those in contact with the criminal justice system; those aging out of foster care through child welfare; those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; and those who identify as being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, or Intersex (LGBTQI).

OnTrackTN serves youth and young adults between the ages of 15-30, who are experiencing psychotic symptoms such as hallucinations, unusual thoughts or beliefs, or disorganized thinking, with symptoms present for more than a week but less than 24 months. The department also gave a presentation on the new Certified Young Adult Peer Support Specialist Program where young adults between 18 and 30 with lived experience can be certified to work with other youth experiencing mental illness.

I provided an overview of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act.

Denise Bentley, Director of the Youth Court Program, a TCCY grantee, gave a presentation on Tennessee Youth Courts.

The Council's also received updates from the Department of Children's Services, Office of Independent Living on Extension of Foster Care Services. The Office of Independent Living will have a new Director. Courtney Mathews will take over the post held by Brian Stephens who is moving to another position in the agency. Extension of Foster Care Services has seen tremendous growth this Fiscal Year in terms of increased participation.

There were also presentations from Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga Resource Centers and Youth Villages LifeSet program.

The Youth Transitions Advisory Council met again on August 9th at Goodwill Industries in Nashville. The Council continued its recent theme on housing with a presenter from Tennessee

Housing and Development Agency providing information on Section 8 housing. Melissa McGee also gave a presentation on System of Care Across Tennessee and its availability to transition age youth.

The Council received updates from DCS and three of four resource centers. Youth Villages also provided an update and one of the youth participating in the YVLifeSet also spoke about her experiences in the program.

The Youth Transitions Advisory Council will meet again October 4 at Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee. Please contact Steve Petty if you would like to be added to the distribution list.

IV. Second Look Commission (SLC) Update – Craig Hargrow

Hargrow stated the Second Look Commission (SLC) held a quarterly meeting on August 14. During the quarterly meeting, the SLC discussed the scope of cases it reviews. Various entities and individuals, including judges, have asked the SLC to review specific cases which may not be on the list provided by DCS. SLC discussed the benefits and challenges associated with reviewing cases as requested by individuals and agencies. SLC members were concerned about capacity and losing sight of the purpose of the SLC. SLC members asked Hargrow to prepare a draft of a policy that allows the SLC to review cases not on the list provided by DCS on a limited basis.

Hargrow stated the SLC also held an investigatory meeting on August 14. Based on the cases reviewed on this date, the SLC made several preliminary findings and recommendations. SLC members discussed the importance of informing all families about family planning, including the voluntary use of long-acting reversible contraceptives to help prevent unwanted pregnancies. SLC members found hair follicle tests should be administered to children whenever drug abuse is an issue with the child's caregiver. SLC members were concerned about how the mental health and substance abuse issues of parents were handled. SLC members reiterated the need to approach addressing substance abuse from a public health perspective. Documentation continues to provide opportunities for improvement. Duplicate entries continue to be an issue. Earlier intervention by the court and law enforcement was recommended as well. Making sure the family has all the services it needs and making sure the family follows through with the services is an opportunity for improvement.

The next SLC is scheduled for October 9.

Hargrow continues to provide training at the Child Protective Services Training Academy. He presents the juvenile court section of the training. Hargrow also continues to serve on the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Advisory Committee and as a member of the Child Protection Investigation Team (CPIT) Advisory Board.

Discussion:

Mortensen inquired if there is positive engagement with other department or agencies and if they understood the value of the Second look Commission especially about preliminary findings and recommendations. Hargrow replied that there is positive engagement and others understood the value of findings and recommendations.

V. Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA), Tennessee Department of Health, and State Budget Updates – Sumita Keller

Keller reported the HVLA met on July 26th. The meeting included the standing items of reports from the Action Teams and a *Building Strong Brains* updated. Carla Snodgrass and Sarah Sanders from Health provided a great update on things happening at Health including the upcoming Home Visiting Summit and CHANT (Carla will give a presentation to the full Commission on Friday on CHANT). Mike Carpenter, the Executive Director for Tennesseans for Quality Early Education, presented on their analysis of the candidates for the upcoming elections and where they stand on early childhood issues. Our next HVLA meeting will be our first joint meeting with CCMH on October 18th at the Midtown Hills Police Precinct in Nashville.

Keller provided an update on advocacy activities for the HVLA. She reported Mike Carpenter, the Executive Director for Tennesseans for Quality Early Education, presented at the last HVLA meeting on their analysis of the candidates for the upcoming elections and where they stand on early childhood issues. Ashley Warrington, the Regional Mobilization Manager in Tennessee for Save the Children Action Network, provided two webinar opportunities on 8/9 and 8/14 on advocacy strategies, including how to invite policy makers on home visits. We appreciate the opportunities to work with our partners and gain from their expertise.

Keller attended the Institute for Child Success' Pay for Success Convening of Early Childhood Advisors, June 19-20 and served on a panel along with Nurse Family Partnership and the Sorensen Center. The audience was very interested in the experiences of Tennessee with the Pay for Success feasibility study for evidence-based home visiting, especially lessons learned and unanticipated successes and challenges.

Discussion:

Mortensen asked if Pay for Success is a permanent goal. Keller responded affirmatively. The project is being paid for by Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV).

VI. SOCAT Expansion Grant and CCMC Updates – Melissa McGee

The Council on Children's Mental Health met on June 22nd, 2018, in a joint meeting with the Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC). Details of that meeting were presented to the committee with the YTAC report. There were 85 people in attendance at the joint meeting. CCMH also met on August 16th, 2018, with a focus on substance use/abuse and the effects on children and families, and presentations from TDMHSAS' on their PFS Rx Student Survey results, a Drug Endangered Children presentation, the TMHSAS' TN Together Media Campaign, and information from DeKalb County Youth and Adult Recovery Courts. There were 107 people in attendance. The next CCMH meeting will be held on October 18th and will be a joint meeting with Home Visiting Leadership Alliance to focus on infant and early childhood mental health.

Systems of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT) has continued to be busy across the state, as well as attending a week-long training of the University of Maryland Training Institutes in Washington, DC, in late July. This conference focused on leadership development, system of care initiatives and successes, and family focus. At present, SOCAT sites have enrolled 72 children and their families, with over 90% of children served remaining in their home instead of going into DCS custody and over 90% of participants with no arrests, hospitalizations, or emergency room visits since enrollment. In West Tennessee, Jerri Moore recently was appointed co-chair of the Children's Committee for Region VI TDMHSAS Policy and Planning Committee. She also has made connections to jumpstart the Handle with Care Project in Tipton County Juvenile Justice which facilitated interest in SOCAT with the local school systems, Tipton County Assistant DA, and local law enforcement, and requested to participate in the advisory council for the early childhood ACEs Innovation Grant for LeBonheur Children's Hospital. She was invited to present at multiple Child Protective Investigative Team Meetings (CPIT) about SOCAT. She was also invited to participate in recent Rural West TN YSO Roundtable and asked to present SOCAT at September Rural West TN YSO Roundtable. She remains one of three TN NWIC Coaches/Trainers anticipating NWIC Certification of the original 10 candidates. She has been asked recently to participate with UTM Mental Health Committee by Regional Health Council Coordinator. And on a personal note, Jerri's daughter, Sara, graduated high school and will begin her freshman year at University of Tennessee Martin later this month.

In Middle Tennessee, SOCAT has increased their service capacity and now has opportunity to serve over half of the 41 counties in Middle Tennessee. Laritha Fentress, Middle Tennessee SOCAT Coordinator, presented to Jackson County Juvenile Court Judge Gipson, who opened immediate doors to Smith County Juvenile Court Judge Collins. Judge Collings then requested Fentress to come over the same day to share about SOCAT services, who then connected her with a community agency staff person present who has been referring clients to SOCAT providers and provided testimony of positive outcomes for a child and family that she had referred to the program. The judge also met Fentress at the Board of Education to introduce her to the Smith County Director of Schools. As a result of this meeting, Fentress was able to schedule a SOCAT presentation to the principals, social workers, and coordinated school staff in Smith County. This is an excellent example of the importance of community engagement and the work of the Divisional Coordinators to further services provided by SOCAT providers. From June 18th thru August 21st, Fentress has presented SOCAT to ten child serving agencies and reached over 90 attendees providing them information on services. She continues to attend monthly community meetings and networking opportunities to spread information on SOCAT.

In East Tennessee, SOCAT Divisional Coordinator Jill Murphy has presented on Building Strong Brains to various community groups, including Roane County teachers as they prepare to use information in their classrooms in the upcoming school year. She has also presented on SOCAT to more than 12 groups/organizations including mental health agencies, juvenile probation officers and Youth Villages Mobile Crisis personnel. As a result of these presentations, several referrals have been received by providers and Youth Villages mobile crisis personnel and the Youth Villages Intercept program are now actively making referrals and are excited with the partnership with SOCAT. Murphy has also been active with the Knoxville Community Coalition to Protect Children as well as East Tennessee Behavioral Health Awareness Coalition along with several local anti-drug

coalitions and community advisory boards in her region. On a personal note, Murphy's daughter, Elise, graduated from high school, and moved in to University of Tennessee Chattanooga to study chemical engineering on August 16th.

VII. Ombudsman Program Update – Gerald R. Papica

From May 1 to July 31, the Ombudsman Program received 25 new referrals. The case types are as follows: 23 (92%) Open/Active Cases and 2 (8%) Information-only Cases. The active cases include one re-opened and five tracking cases. Tracking cases are complaints related to the foster home or foster parents. For the same reporting period, 37 cases were logged in 2017 and 27 cases were logged in 2016. Eighteen referrals or 72% were received from four regions (Davidson, Mid-Cumberland, Smoky Mountain, and South Central).

Please refer to handouts (statistics and graphs) distributed to the Children's Services Committee for this reporting period covering a span of three months.

Dr. Papica provided two Ombudsman Program introductory classes at Gateway to Independence (GTI) on May 15 and June 26. DCS has decided to privatize GTI effective July or the beginning of FY 2018-2019. Due to this, the Ombudsman Program introductory class for new DCS employees is discontinued.

As the representative (commission designee) of TCCY for the Department of Human Services Daycare Licensing Board of Reviews (BOR), Dr. Papica participated in four hearings from May to July. One of the BORs was via teleconference about an agreed settlement. Zanira Whitfield served at a hearing on June 30 in Dr. Papica's absence.

Dr. Papica is a current member of the 2018 USOA conference planning committee. Conference registration and hotel reservation are currently open. The 39th annual conference will be held in Portland, Oregon, on September 24-28. The title of this year's conference is, "Ombudsman: Blazing a Trail to Fairness." As he has for the last several years, Dr. Papica will join three seasoned ombudsman colleagues to provide a two-day New Ombudsman Training. He is the USOA vice president for FY 2017-2019.

VIII. Other Business

HARLAND MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MORTENSEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Minutes approved by:

Gerald R. Papica, Ombudsman Program Director

Amy Jones, Committee Chair